

CLAIMS

1 1. A method of launching a selected application on a computer, the method
2 comprising the steps of:

3 accessing a registry to determine which applications are installed and
4 where each application is installed;

5 creating a hypertext markup language (HTML) file specifying the appli-
6 cations that are installed;

7 displaying the HTML file in a browser so that a user can select any one
8 of the applications that is installed as a selected application to launch; and

9 if the user selects an application as the selected application, determin-
10 ing the location of the selected application from tags in the HTML file and
11 launching the selected application without allowing the browser to navigate to
12 the application.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the HTML file lists applications that are
2 known but not installed and the file is displayed in the displaying step so as to show
3 applications that are known but not installed with a specific visual attribute.

1 3. A computer program product for launching a selected application on a
2 computer, the computer program product including a computer program comprising:

3 instructions for accessing a registry to determine which applications are
4 installed and where each application is installed;

5 instructions for creating a hypertext markup language (HTML) file
6 specifying the applications that are installed;

7 instructions for displaying the HTML file in a browser so that a user can
8 select any one of the applications that is installed as a selected application to
9 launch; and

10 instructions for determining if an when a user has selected an application
11 as the selected application, and determining the location of the selected applica-
12 tion from tags in the HTML file and launching the selected application with-
13 out allowing the browser to navigate to the selected application.

1 4. The computer program product of claim 3 wherein the HTML file lists applica-
2 tions that are known but not installed and the file is displayed by the instructions for
3 displaying so as to show applications that are known but not installed with a specific
4 visual attribute.

1 5. Apparatus for launching a selected application on a computer, the appara-
2 tus comprising:

3 means for accessing a registry to determine which applications are in-
4 stalled and where each application is installed;

5 means for creating a hypertext markup language (HTML) file specifying
6 the applications that are installed;

7 means for displaying the HTML file in a browser so that a user can se-
8 lect any one of the applications that is installed as a selected application to
9 launch; and

10 means for determining if an when a user has selected an application as
11 the selected application, and determining the location of the selected applica-
12 tion from tags in the HTML file and launching the selected application without
13 allowing the browser to navigate to the application.

1 6. A programmed computer system, the programmed computer system oper-
2 able to launch a selected application on a computer by performing the steps of:

3 accessing a registry to determine which applications are installed and
4 where each application is installed;

5 creating a hypertext markup language (HTML) file specifying the appli-
6 cations that are installed;

7 displaying the HTML file in a browser so that a user can select any one
8 of the applications that is installed as a selected application to launch; and

9 if the user selects an application as the selected application, determin-
10 ing the location of the selected application from tags in the HTML file and
11 launching the selected application without allowing the browser to navigate to
12 the application.

1 7. The computer system of claim 6 wherein the HTML file lists applications
2 that are known but not installed and the file is displayed in the displaying step so as
3 to show applications that are known but not installed with a specific visual attribute.